

AN OVERWINTERING SITE OF THE HOP LOOPER, *HYPENA HUMULI* (HARRIS)¹

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ABSTRACT: Overwintering adults of *Hypena humuli* (Harris) were collected near the entrance of a cave in Boone County, Missouri, in January 1981. The adults shared the cave with bats. Any possible relationship between the moth and the insectivore during winter, however, is unknown.

Overwintering patterns vary among insect species. Each species has adapted physiologically and ecologically to a particular overwintering site. Here, I report a moth found overwintering in a Missouri cave. The Holton cave, the site of the observation of Jan. 28, 1981, is located near Sturgeon in Boone County, Missouri. Many moths were resting on the upper wall of the cave. Fourteen moths collected from this cave were identified as the hop looper or hop-vine snout-mouth, *Hypena humuli* (Harris) (Noctuidae), by J.R. Heitzman, and are preserved in the Entomological Museum of the University of Missouri-Columbia.

The distribution of this cave population of *H. humuli* appeared to be restricted to the region within approximately 100 feet from the mouth of the cave. The insects were not found further inside the cave where several kinds of bats were also hibernating. In adopting cave hibernation, the moth has to encounter bat predators and may be under considerable predatory pressure in the late fall and early spring. Any possible strategy of avoiding predation is an open question at present.

H. humuli is a bivoltine species distributed over the United States and Canada (Holland, 1905). No other host than the hop plant is known (Howard, 1897). Howard (1897) suggested that the adults pass the winter in bark crevices and fence corners, or in old logs and stumps. Caves are now identified as one overwintering site for this species.

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LITERATURE CITED

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